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GROMYKO SEEN OFF BY KIRILENKO ON DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA

LD201656Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1303 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko left Moscow for Geneva today for a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. He was seen off at the airport by Kirilenko, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other officials.

Gromyko Statement in Geneva

LD201756Y Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, December 20, TASS--On his arrival in Geneva the USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko made the following pressward statement at the airport: We came to Geneva for talks with the Secretary of State of the United States Vance. In the course of the forthcoming talks it is intended to study first of all questions concerning the agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms.

As is known, both sides have expressed intent to conclude already in the nearest future the drafting of this exceptionally important document on a mutual acceptable basis. I would like to hope that the present meeting will substantially advance us to the attainment of this aim. The Soviet Union is prepared through the mutual efforts of our countries to bring closer the day of the signing of that accord. It goes without saying, and we have repeatedly said this, that the attainment of the accord is possible only on condition of strict observance of the principle of the equal security of the sides and mutual account for the interests of each other and the interests of peace in the whole world.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Swiss authorities for their hospitality and to convey the best of wishes to the residents of Geneva and to the entire people of Switzerland.

Vance Arrives Geneva

LD211024Y Moscow TASS in English 0947 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, December 21, TASS--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived here today for a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko.

Commentary Views Upcoming Talks

LD202118Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, USSR minister of foreign affairs, has arrived in Geneva for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. The forthcoming talks will deal above all with problems concerning agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms.

As events taking place in the world indicate, the main factor exerting a determining influence on the entire international situation is relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

One of the pivotal problems is Soviet-American relations at present is the question of concluding a new agreement on limiting strategic offensive arms. The Soviet Union is not guilty of having delayed the drafting of this most important document. Many Western observers, writing on the new round of Soviet-American talks which begins in Geneva tomorrow, voice the opinion that it will be the last round and will enable agreement on the details of the agreement that have so far remained unresolved.

In his television interview yesterday U.S. President Carter said that Secretary of State Vance would meet Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko on Thursday. The President said: If the talks are successful, we will immediately send Brezhnev an invitation to visit us early next year.

In connection with the coming Geneva meeting, a number of other reports indicate an activation in the United States both of representatives of sober-minded political and business circles, who realize the necessity for the United States and all the world of the speediest conclusion of a Soviet-American agreement, and of opponents of such an agreement and international detente. As is known, once it has been signed, this agreement must be submitted to the Senate for ratification. Opponents of the agreement, including those in the Senate, are now fanning another round of propagandistic hysteria by trying to scare the public over the alleged Soviet military threat.

Supporters of the agreement have been putting forward convincing arguments against these idle conclusions. But those who cannot give up their attitudes based on the psychology of cold war methods are already advancing, getting ready to try to block the ratification of the agreement after it has been signed. This campaign has been in progress for a number of days now, and reports from across the Atlantic suggest that the Soviet-American talks due to open in Geneva tomorrow are causing yet another fit of nervousness among the opponents of international detente.

In any case, the Soviet-American meeting starting in Geneva tomorrow will demonstrate whether the work of preparing a treaty on limiting strategic arms can be completed shortly. Private organizations in the United States engaged in studying the country's public opinion have published much impressive data based on their most recent public opinion polls. A poll just conducted shows that 75 percent of Americans are in favor of the new treaty; 17 percent of those interviewed are against it and 8 percent are undecided. This means that the overwhelming majority of Americans come out most specifically in favor of concluding the agreement, despite the massive manipulation of public opinion by all the mass media, which are under the control of opponents of detente.

In light of such facts the stand of these American legislators who are fond of expatiating on their so-called loyalty to democracy looks strange--to say the last--since they evidently ignore the opinion of those who elected them.

TASS REPORTS BEGINNING OF VANCE-GROMYKO GENEVA TALKS

LD211127Y Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, December 21, TASS--The meeting between USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance began in Geneva today. In the course of the meeting will be examined questions in connection with drawing up an agreement on the limitation of strategic offensive arms.

U.S.-PRC NORMALIZATION

BREZHNEV SAYS U.S.-PRC NORMALIZATION 'A NATURAL MATTER'

ID211106Y Moscow TASS in English 1105 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 21, TASS--In connection with the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USA and the PRC, President Carter gave an interview to the American radio-television corporation in which he touched upon an exchange of messages in this connection with Leonid Brezhnev, the president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

TASS has learned from official quarters that Carter in his message informed Brezhnev of the forthcoming normalization of relations between the USA and China. The President gave the assurance that this step had no other aims except to promote the cause of world peace, and expressed the opinion that it would benefit all countries.

In his reply to Carter, Brezhnev took notice of these words and also of reassurances given by the American side earlier that the development of United States relations with China would not be directed against the USSR. The establishment of normal relations between two sovereign states is a natural matter, Brezhnev emphasized. The Soviet Union has always advocated and advocates precisely such relations between countries. It is another question on what basis normalization takes place, what aims are pursued by the sides. This question is also natural, especially, bearing in mind the quite definite trend of China's present course. In this connection, the reply message draws attention to the fact that the joint American-Chinese communique contains expressions, whose direction is beyond doubts, if one bears in mind the usual vocabulary of the Chinese leaders.

Of course, Brezhnev says in his reply, the Soviet Union will most closely follow what the development of American-Chinese relations will be in practice and from this will draw appropriate conclusions for Soviet policy.

NORMALIZATION MAY HELP PRC ACQUIRE WESTERN ARMS

ID210250Y Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] The Western news media have started a noisy campaign on the issue of diplomatic relations between Washington and Peking. This campaign is very indicative in itself because it sheds light on some of the problems involved. To begin with, there is nothing wrong with the United States having normal diplomatic relations with China. If, however, the American leaders had approached the issue from commonsense they would have no need to pretend for the past three decades or so that it is the Taiwan Government that represents the people of China.

It took Washington 7 years to normalize diplomatic relations with the Chinese People's Republic after President Nixon's promise to do so. The President made his promise when he visited China in February 1972. It is quite natural, therefore, that political observers now ask why has this particular moment of time been chosen for the joint American-Chinese step and what is behind this joint move. The move is causing a lot of speculation. Observers are asking, for example, whether this move will serve to promote peace. In his interview for the CBS network, President Carter tried to make it quite clear that the move is not directed against any third country. But Chinese commentaries on the agreement provide a striking contrast to the assurances of the President. What strikes one most about the Chinese attitude is the fact that the Peking leaders and their official news media have been trying to play up as much as they could the establishment of diplomatic relations with Washington.

Special colorful leaflets were printed and distributed for the occasion, and the PEOPLE'S DAILY prepared a special editorial couched in the most pompous terms. Hua Kuo-feng gave a press conference in Peking at which he tried to make the most of diplomatic relations with Washington. (?Those at) the press confererce and comments in the Chinese press leave no doubt about the fact that the Peking leaders put their own interpretation on the agreement and this interpretation differs in a substantial way from the one provided by Washington.

In their later statements the Peking leaders again make no secret of their hegemonistic ambitions and of their anti-Soviet designs. Most political observers in the West point out that Peking has made far-reaching concessions to Washington as a price for diplomatic relations. A New York TIMES correspondent reporting from Hong Kong quoted some local Western diplomats as saying that the serious concessions made by China put an end to the deadlock over the problem of Taiwan. The agreement on diplomatic relations has been reached because Peking agreed not to notice any further U.S. arms supplies to Taiwan. This is also confirmed by another article appearing in the New York TIMES which quotes a high-ranking Pentagon sources as saying that the U.S. arms sales to Taiwan will go on in order to preserve stability in that region. The paper also mentions a secret Pentagon document which provides for stepping up U.S. arms supplies to Taiwan in the near future.

The U.S. representative in Peking, Woodcock, has shed some light on the details of the secret deal that had preceded the establishment of diplomatic relations with China. He said he had some meetings and discussions with Teng Hsiao-ping who agreed to the United States giving military aid to Taiwan. He also said Peking will not object to the capitalist system being preserved on Taiwan and will have nothing against continued U.S. economic relations with Taiwan.

The Chinese official also agreed to forget the widely advertised calls for Taiwan's reunification with China. The Chinese leaders obviously expect that all these far-reaching concessions to Washington will result in an increase flow of Western arms and military technology to China. They hope that they will now be able to complete their arms deals with France, Japan, Britain and West Germany, and that they will also be getting arms from the United States.

The Americans so far have taken a cautious stand on that issue, as different from some other Western powers. Turning back to the New York TIMES which is perhaps the best informed press source in the United States, it is interesting to note the following: The paper says that Sino-American diplomatic relations will help China acquire modern Western military technology. The paper says there is a chance that the Chinese will ask for U.S. arms. If this is so, how can one say that Sino-American diplomatic relations pose no threat to any third country? Peking is facing no external threat. We all know that. So why should it be seeking Western weapons on a massive scale? Part of the answer to this question is provided by the aggressive Chinese policy towards Vietnam.

Political observers point out that the policy of arming China may have dangerous consequences, and no one in the West can guarantee how the Chinese will actually use these weapons. This view is taken for example by the West German newspaper GENERAL-ANZEIGER which warns about the risk involved in the American decisions. There is no consensus of opinion in the United States itself about diplomatic relations with China. Many quarters there are far from being optimistic about his move. Robert (?Dornan) of the House of Representatives has described it as the greatest act of pacification since Chamberlain's visit to Munich. Political observers in the United States say the White House decided to establish diplomatic relations with China at a time when the 95th Congress was already dissolved, and before the opening of the 96th Congress which was elected in November. Some people speak about the President exceeding his powers, and taking the decision without a congressional approval.

Reports have it that a number of senators have requested a special session of Congress to discuss the situation, and American papers say members of the Carter administration anticipate a legal battle which may even be taken to the Supreme Court, on whether the President had the right to take that decision without Congress.

Some papers have it that the White House originally wanted to establish diplomatic relations with China early next year. So why had it decided to hasten the event? Senator Bob Dole, who ran for the post of vice president on the Republican Party's ticket 2 years ago, feels the timing of the move has been designed to distract public attention at home from the collapse of the widely advertised Camp David agreement on a separate peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. Observers feel that having suffered that serious political setback, the White House has tried to make up for it by staging a new political sensation. This represents some of the main views and comments that have appeared in the world press on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Washington and Peking.

PRC REPORTEDLY ALLOWS U.S. ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN

LD202100Y Moscow TASS in English 1716 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Washington, December 20, TASS--American news agencies, referring to Pentagon official representatives, have reported a decision to deliver American weapons to Taiwan. A long-term program designed for five years (from 1979 to 1983) is envisaged. During this period the United States will supply Taiwan with 625 million dollars' worth of arms, including F-5E jet fighter planes, Sidewinder, Hawk and Maverick missiles, tanks, artillery pieces, bombs, torpedoes and a whole number of other kinds of weapons and equipment.

The program was announced a few days after the decision to normalise U.S. relations with China. The New York TIMES points out that Peking in the final analysis lifted its objections to American arms exports to Taiwan, which up till recently was Peking's immutable condition for the establishment of official relations with the USA.

China's readiness to agree to the sales of U.S. weapons to Taiwan even after the expiation of the mutual defence treaty between the USA and Taiwan, the paper underlines, constitutes Peking's most important concessions.

7TH FLEET WILL CONTINUE 'TO PLY' TAIWAN STRAITS

LD210058Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Valeriy Kosovan]

[Text] The forthcoming abrogation [ANNULIROVANIYE] of the mutual defense treaty between the United States and the Chiang Kai-shek regime in Taiwan will not lead to the withdrawal of the U.S. 7th Fleet from the Taiwan Straits. It will continue to ply those straits to insure the security of the Chiang Kai-shek forces. This is stated in a UPI report based on material from one of Hong Kong's authoritative newspapers. The paper quotes the statements of U.S. diplomats in Hong Kong, who have suggested that Peking has no objection to the presence of U.S. warships close to the Chinese coast.

This is one more confirmation of the fact that Peking has made great concessions on Taiwan in its talks with Washington about the resumption of diplomatic relations. Whereas the Chinese leaders comparatively recently continued to speak about the "sacred duty" to liberate Taiwan--even with the use of force--and to "return it to the womb of the motherland," Peking has now virtually abandoned the fulfillment of this mission. The change of its stance over the Taiwan problem has been visibly dictated by the wish to create conditions for the speediest normalization of relations with the United States.

SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS AT 33D UN SESSION REVIEWED

LD202104Y Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 20 TASS--TASS commentator Valadimir Petrov writes:

The 33rd session of the United Nations General Assembly is concluding its work in New York. Key problems, whose solution is expected by the peoples of the whole world, were discussed by this representative international forum for three months. Central among them were questions of easing tension, disarmament and curbing the arms race.

Interest in these problems is natural: The arms race not only threatens peace in the whole world but also impedes mankind's further social progress. As it was indicated at the present session of the United Nations General Assembly spendings of all countries on armaments now exceed a billion dollars a day and more than 25 million people serve in armed forces. Even more people are engaged in the non-productive military industry. The squandering of manpower and material resources is the more senseless that to this day a considerable part of mankind--about 700 million people--is suffering from malnutrition, while about 1500 million people have to do without medical services.

The further stockpiling of arms, first of all nuclear arms, and the growing danger of their use are fraught with even more baleful consequences. Being aware of this and pursuing a policy of peace, determined by the very nature of socialist society, the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries came out at the 33rd session of the United Nations General Assembly with a number of initiatives directed at excluding the possibility of a nuclear castastrophe, at achieving a curbing of the arms race and adopting concrete measures in the field of disarmament.

At the session widespread support was given to Soviet proposals to conclude an international convention on strengthening the guarantees of the security of non-nuclear states, to reach agreement on the non-deployment of nuclear arms on the territory of states that do not have such weapons at present, Soviet proposals to end the production of all types of nuclear weapons, to stop the production and ban all other types of weapons of mass annihiliation. The proposal for permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and also for countries linked with them by military agreements to undertake not to expand their armies and not to increase stockpiles of conventional arms were motivated by a striving to make a concrete contribution to the limitation of the arms race.

The Soviet proposal for states possessing a big economic and miitary potential to reach agreement to reduce their military budgets not be percentage, but in absolute terms, by a value of the same magnitude is based on concern for the preservation of peace and for the good of all peoples. If attained, this agreement would make it possible to reduce non-productive military spendings, to allocate a part of the thus released means for increased aid to developing countries.

All these proposals rightly occupied a worthy place in the work of the present session of the United Nations General Assembly. Their implementation, it was pointed out by participants in the session, would make it possible to make a real step along the road of preventing the threat of thermonuclear war, would facilitate the solution of such pressing tasks as relieving mankind from hunger, poverty, diseases and unemployment, would facilitate economic and social progress.

PLO OBSERVERS AT UN SCORE ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN LEBANON

LD211050Y Moscow TASS in English 0840 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] New York, December 21, TASS--The TASS correspondent, Valentin Vasilyev, reports: U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim expressed regret over the events in Lebanon. At the same time Israeli naval units shelled and fired missiles against Lebanese territory. There were killed and wounded.

A letter from Zehdi Labib Terazi, the PLO permanent observer at U.N., to the president of the Security Council was circulated here as an official document. The letter draws attention to the serious aggravation of the situation on the occupied Palestinian territories as a result of the unceasing illegal Israeli occupation and violations of the principles of the U.N. Charter, the Universal Human Rights Declaration, the Geneva convention and numerous General Assembly resolutions. On instructions from the PLO Executive Committee, Zehdi Labib Terazi asked the Security Council president to take appropriate steps for ending the Israeli provocations.

Hassan Rahman, the deputy of the PLO permanent observer at U.N., said in a TASS interview that those hostile actions were part of the war Tel Aviv was waging against the Palestinian people. By means of piratical attacks Israel seeks to weaken the Palestinian revolution and at the same time to aggravate tension in Lebanon. Hassan Rahman assessed Tel Aviv's aggressive actions as an attempt to pressurize the Arabs, to frighten them and to make them abandon their just demands.

These actions, he said, fully accord with the strategy and tactic of Israel and the United States, their stick-and-carrot policy vis-a-vis the Arab countries.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES SOVIET PROPOSAL

LD170716Y Moscow TASS in English 0700 GMT 17 Dec 78 LD

[Text] New York, December 17,TASS--By the overwhelming majority of votes the United Nations General Assembly approved the Soviet proposal on non-emplacement of nuclear weapons in the territory of states where there is no such weapons at present. It was stressed during the discussion of the Soviet initiative that its implementation would prevent the spread of the deadliest weapon of mass destruction to new regions. The General Assembly also adopted the resolution which confirmed again the need of universal and effective observance of the principle of non-use of force in international relations. The assembly decreed that the special committee for enhancing the effectivity of the principle of on non-use of force in international relations must shortly draw up a world treaty on non-use of force in international relations.

BRIEFS

ZEMSKOV ADDRESSES COMMISSION--Moscow, 13 Dec, TASS--A routine session of the USSR Commission for UNESCO Matters was held in Moscow today. A report on the results of the 20th session of the UNESCO General Conference was delivered by Igor Zemskov, chairman of the USSR Commission for UNESCO Matters and deputy foreign minister of the USSR. He stressed the positive results of the latest session, which adopted important political decisions at the initiative of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries that are aimed at further deepening the UNESCO contributions to the cause of peace and fruitful cooperation. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1203 GMT 13 Dec 78 LD]

SOVIET SUCCESSES NOT DUE TO IMPORTS OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY

ID201617 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Dec 78 p 5 ID

[Yuriy Zhukov article: "Don't Overdo It, Gentlemen!"]

[Text] When telling lies, don't overdo it! This somewhat rough, but very precise Russian proverb, addressed to liars who make themselves ridiculous by absurd fabrications, involuntarily comes to mind when one hears really hysterical yells from enemies of detente, now being heard from overseas.

What has made them foam at the mouth? These gentlemen have literally been shocked by reports that early in December 350 senior officials of large U.S. firms discussed in Moscow with representatives of Soviet economic bodies possibilities of mutually beneficial cooperation.

And then whistles and shouts came from the U.S. bourgeois press: "How can they dare, what are they allowing themselves? Trade with Russia is a dangerous game"--this menacing warning came for instance, from U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, known for its links with the military-industrial complex. Those who trade with the USSR strengthen the economic and military might of America's most dangerous potential enemy. It was really written "enemy of America"! And that is not far from accusations of treason...

But how to substantiate such grave accusations against big U.S. business tycoons? Those who inspired that absurd allegation, and those who made it public have a ready tongue--if there are no facts, they can be invented. So the chronic liars, who are at the service of the military-industrial complex, hurriedly put out such pearls:

--40 percent of the total cement production in the USSR comes from plants using Western equipment...

--More than 30 percent of the Soviet sugar beet harvest is refined by western equipment...

--Trucks are already coming off conveyors of the Kamaz plant, built by the Americans?!

And so on and so forth. U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT has staged a veritable firework display of figures spun out of thin air, and equally preposterous deductions.

Its false assertions will undoubtedly make people laugh. For instance, our cement industry workers know that only two technological lines for the Achinsk plant have been purchased in the "West", but to be more exact, in France--not the United States! They account for only about 1 percent of our cement production, for which, by the way, we are second to none in the world.

They will also amuse our sugar industry workers, who remember that the last time some equipment was purchased in the west was 10 years ago, and its role in sugar refining is insignificant in our country. By the way, it would be interesting to know how sugar production in the USSR threatens U.S. security?

But the builders of the Kamaz plant, I am sure, will laugh loudest of all to hear the assertions made by the American weekly. The Kamaz builders with their own hands and by Soviet designs constructed the world's largest truck plant. Now they hear for the first time that allegedly Americans have something to do with its construction.

Ford in his time offered his services, it is true. But in the United States he was snubbed, and promptly went back on his intentions. Well, we were able to do without him. We ourselves built that, as says Moscow correspondent of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT Robin Knight, giant complex, occupying a territory larger than Manhattan Island. And Ford lost the chance for an advantageous deal.

Part of the equipment for the plant we did purchase abroad, including in the United States, but again in accordance with the technology elaborated by Soviet specialists. By the way, we ourselves sell our equipment abroad, don't we? The French have purchased from us, for instance, one of the largest presses in the world, haven't they?

The Bolsheviks cannot be sold anything, exclaims Robin Knight hoarsely. And he himself said that the most important thing relating to that plant (meaning the Kamaz truck plant again--Yu.Zh.) is not a commercial Western-type enterprise, but a Soviet state enterprise.

That's where the shoe pinches! U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT and its staff believe that economic cooperation with the USSR should be developed only if we agree to establish "commercial enterprises of the Western type", that is if we restored capitalism. Well, gentlemen, you will be disappointed: You cannot expect that.

And your downright lies that we owe all our successes to American benefactors will only amuse the honest people. In Wall Street they will bitterly shrug their shoulders; for they know full well there that U.S. equipment exports to the USSR are insignificant, and that without it we have reached world heights in technology. They know that only the American industry found itself the loser, since it loses advantageous orders, one by one.

As was noted incidentally by U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT itself, the U.S. industrial exports to the USSR in 1977 stood at only $586 million. It is even less this year, whereas the FRG sold us in 1977 $2,500 million worth of industrial commodities, and Japan--$2,000 million.

What are the conclusions? Let these be made by the U.S. commerce and treasury secretaries, who are now looking for possibilities of reducing the unfavorable U.S. balance of trade!

ADMINISTRATION 'PROMISE' TO REMOVE TRADE BARRIERS NOTED

LD201619Y Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Dec 78 p 9 LD

[Article by NOVOSTI political commentator Gennadiy Gerasimov: "Mercury Against Mars"]

[Text] Mercury, god of trade, plainly crowded Mars, god of war, in Moscow last week.

We have in mind the seventh session of the Soviet-American Trade Commission and the sixth session of the Soviet-American Trade and Economic Council. U.S. Treasury Secretary M. Blumenthal, Commerce Secretary J. Kreps, A. Harriman, an eminent figure in the Democratic Party and former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, other officials representing the present administration and also, of course, a large group of businessmen came to our capital to participate in their work.

The Trade and Economic Council now has no less than 275 member companies on the American side. Their number has increased by 65 compared with last year. And never before had so many--380!--major representatives of transatlantic business gathered in Moscow. D. Rockefeller, member of the Council's Executive Committee, expressed the opinion that "the record number of participants attests to the great U.S. business interest in trade with the Soviet Union."

However, in the last few years Soviet-American trade not only has not increased but has even decreased and continues to do so. This is due to the discriminatory measures adopted in the United States with regard to the Soviet Union, which have been elevated to legal status. But normal economic relations between powers such as the Soviet Union and the United States rule out any attempts at political pressure. To dictate to the Soviet Union how it should behave in the international arena and how it should conduct its internal affairs means to impede trade and undermine cooperation.

In his dinner speech marking the Soviet-American Trade and Economic Council session L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, declared that the Soviet Union consistently advocates the development of economic relations with the United States on the basis of the clear and honest principles of equality and mutual advantage.

L.I. Brezhnev's speech has evoked a great response primarily in the United States. Businessmen are calculating their losses from the multitude of lost contracts--at least $3 billion. They propose that the trade between the two countries be raised to the multibillion-dollar level. And here business circles rate highly L.I. Brezhnev's remark that the development of trade and economic relations is a reliable foundation on whose basis it is easier to build the complex edifice of Soviet-American relations and to strengthen mutual trust and understanding.

In essence two paramount questions were discussed in Moscow: What is to be done with the old obstacles in the way of trade, and how to give it the green light? The American side effectively consisted of the two groups plus an invisible third group: Representatives of the administration and business and, looming behind them, the shadow of Congress.

The main old obstacle is the discriminatory amendments adopted by Congress in 1974. What should become of them? Obviously, the administration should take steps to persuade Congress to rectify its mistake.

However, steps have been taken in the opposite direction. New attempts have been made to utilize trade with a view to applying pressure, and new measures have been introduced to toughen controls on exports to the USSR. These were sharply condemned by the Soviet side. W. Verity, cochairman of the council on the American side, also stated clearly that "Businessmen are not interested in any type of trade that depends on how a few people view the political situation at a given moment." Just like the Soviet trade partners, American business circles prefer to work with an eye to the future. A. Harriman said in Moscow: "I do not think that trade should be linked with other aspects of our relations."

However, Congress' position is convenient for those who like all kinds of "linkage." For instance, there is already talk of new restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union--for instance, of barriers to the export of Soviet watches to the United States.

As far as the administration is concerned, 22 permits for the export of various goods to the USSR were issued simultaneously before the Moscow meeting. Treasury Secretary Blumenthal reaffirmed his readiness to "consider without delay" requests for export licenses. That is, the right hand is still promising to deal with the left.

As far as American business circles are concerned, the meetings in Moscow showed their readiness to cooperate. The council, whose practical work is led by President M. Forrestal and First Vice President G.S. Shchukin, carried out preliminary elaboration of 28 specific projects for industrial cooperation. This made it possible to hold a really businesslike discussion in Moscow. V.N. Sushkov, USSR deputy minister of foreign trade and cochairman of the council on the Soviet side, mentioned the calculations that implementing these projects alone, which by no means define the limits of cooperation, would provide the United States with an additional 500,000-800,000 jobs--something of considerable importance since, as W. Verity admitted, unemployment is a problem that the United States would like to solve....

Political aspects supplement the purely economic arguments and considerations of commonsense. And so when the sides spoke in Moscow of their desire to help Mercury, they were thereby already putting pressure on Mars.

CIA-ORGANIZED IDEOLOGICAL SABOTAGE DENOUNCED

LD21005Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[F. Zubtsov article: "Ideological Saboteurs From the CIA"]

[Text] A grim individual wearing a cloak which conceals a dagger--that traditional image of the CIA secret agent has always reflected only one aspect of the activity of this sinister insitution with its headquarters in Langley, near Washington. Very often nowadays a fountain pen and a microphone supplement the portrait of contemporary cloak-and-dagger knights. The use of CIA agents in the guise of correspondents and also the use of journalists as agents is now a generally acknowledged fact in America. It is well known that in the last few years more than 400 staffers of U.S. newspapers, radio and television stations, and other mass media have fulfilled CIA missions.

Since the reorganization of intelligence organs, the expansion of their functions and the increase in the appropriations for their activity, the ingratiating voices of the misinformer on the airwaves--voices paid in dollars--have become still more importunate. U.S. ruling circles are responding to the peoples' call for peace and cooperation by intensifying psychological warfare. The financing by U.S. intelligence of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe was uncovered even before these radio stations made the transition from supposedly "independent" private organizations to the category of institutions fed directly by the administration. Some $88 million has been earmarked for them in the new fiscal year just begun--$19 million more than last year.

While implementing broad espionage and subversive actions against other countries, the CIA at the same time attempts to influence public opinion, distorting and juggling the facts with this aim and making active use of news media for this purpose. As New York WORLD magazine has noted, the CIA "has spent millions of dollars in the last 30 years on prostituting press freedom, systematically utilizing news agencies, newspapers and individual journalists in order to disseminate forgeries, lies and disinformation throughout the world." [paragraph continues]

The USIA--U.S. Information Agency--was also closely linked with the intelligence service before, along with other organs, it was reorganized as the so-called International Communications Agency. It must be assumed that this will only intensify the former "subordination."

In one of his analyses publicist Ferdinand Landberg points out: "...To an increasing extent since World War II the United States has been openly expanding its international commitments throughout the world. And many of these commitments to protect 'interests' provide protection for matters that have nothing to do with the American people's needs." Further: "...American private interests have expanded to such an extent...that any locally important rebellion in any part of the world is a subject of concern in the State Department. And so the State Department and the Pentagon sound the alarm almost every time anything unusual happens anywhere--a fact realized by only a few of the Americans glued to their television sets...."

It is understandable that these monopolies' private interests are threatened most of all by the peoples' desire for political, economic and state independence. Hence the growing role of the CIA as the gatherer of all sorts of information on "any corner of the world" on the one hand, and as the disseminator of misinformation advantageous to the monopolies on the other.

In practice the CIA's acts of ideological subversion come down to the following: helping to insure in the United States itself that public opinion identifies the foreign interests of the largest corporations with U.S. interests; undermining the positions of those forces in the world that are struggling for the true independence of their countries and in one way or another are curtailing the sphere of unimpeded domination by the "multi-national" and merely U.S. monopolies; combating the influence of socialism as the only alternative to capitalism, and primarily the Soviet Union as the bulwark of socialism and loyal friend of the national liberation movements.

At the end of August, having visited CIA headquarters, President Carter noted the expansion of the functions of the U.S. intelligence apparatus and justified this by claiming that its tasks now "also include analyzing the situation in virtually all parts of the world, almost every country of the world." It is perfectly obvious that the CIA has thus been set the task of organizing a broader system of espionage and subversive activity, which, of course, presupposes broadening the dimensions of acts of ideological subversion. These are spearheaded primarily against the USSR and the other socialist countries.

The CIA's analyses of the USSR have always been distinguished by deliberate lack of objectivity and hostility, and have been exploited to the utmost by anti-Soviet propaganda. For instance, whenever the time approaches for discussion of the budget in Congress, U.S. legislators are presented with the CIA's "conclusions" about the "growing threat" from the USSR in order to push them to approve the Pentagon's growing military expenditure for the production of new types of lethal weapons.

In its intelligence and subversive approach to our country, the CIA leadership bases itself on U.S. ruling circles' assessment of the world situation. In particular this assessment has been expressed in some theory about nationalism as the "main feature of the present day" presented in various forms by U.S. political scientists. Superficially this theory seems to be a comment on the collapse of the colonial system and the growth of the national liberation movements, but in practice it serves to justify U.S. pursuit of its traditional "balance of power" diplomacy and its playing on the contradictions between other countries.

Being the most powerful socialist country, the Soviet Union is singled out by the ideological saboteurs as the main target of the propaganda attacks and slander, and in this particular case anticommunism appears in the form of unbridled anti-Sovietism with importunate emphasis placed on some "aggressiveness" on the part of the USSR and on its "imperial ways". The Soviet Union is slanderously accused of racism, chauvinism and nationalist sins. And this is done with the same zeal with which the bourgeoisie has attacked and continues to attack our country for internationalism--which imperialist propaganda has turned into a swear word, since it has always feared and continues to fear the international cohesiveness of the working class.

At the same time, in order to confirm the thesis of "nationalism as the main feature of the present day," the CIA is purposefully gathering information designed to bring together the various manifestations of chauvinism and nationalism in the world in an attempt to drive a wedge between peoples who are allies in the struggle against imperialism. The more distrustful and suspicious states and peoples are of each other the better, imperialism's strategists reckon. They calculate that those who stand to gain from this are those who possess the greatest economic weight and potential, the state with a global network of multinational corporations and military bases, that is, the United States. These hotheaded strategists have certainly not abandoned the idea of American world diktat.

For countries where the progressive forces and communist parties have strong positions, the CIA's ideological saboteurs keep at the ready the "Chilean variant" whereby, as is known, the "pollution of the news media" by press and radio output from the United States makes the news media a direct instrument of counterrevolution.

In the developing countries this task has been facilitated hitherto by the so-called U.S. "information imperialism," that is, the monopolization of communications channels and the transmission of garbled and falsified information via these channels. As the U.S. magazine THE NATION wrote, the source of a great deal of information published both in the United States and abroad is the CIA which, quoting reliable sources, issues false information about events, but gives it "versimilitude". The same journal writes in this connection: "Our papers are constantly publishing reports whose sole source is the CIA. This source is quite often Washington and is described as 'administration circles.' For example: 'Rebel forces supported by communists backed up by Soviet T-34 tanks are threatening X, the capital of Y, it was reported in administration circles.' A similar report might appear in the press in another country. The 'report' is false. This has no significance for the CIA. The important thing is that it should seem plausible to the news organs."

In some cases the reports concocted by Langley's disciples are published under the name of a well-known commentator.

In their endeavor to sow discord, distrust and enmity among the peoples, in accordance with the carrot and stick principle, and trying in vain to play many propaganda instruments at once, to different audiences, the ideological saboteurs lost sight of the byproduct of their schemes, which will inevitably become increasingly apparent in time--the peoples' growing distrust of the transatlantic strategists and their policy. The peoples of the world have no grounds nor can they have any grounds for believing in the "good intentions" of those who are seeking to use, to their own advantage, chauvinism, nationalism, racism and other prejudices and who are trying to slander socialism and the national liberation movement and, at the same time, embroider imperialism's unsavory deeds.

However, no efforts by paid ideological saboteurs will erase from the people's mind pictures of the atomic mushrooms over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, memories of the overthrow during and after the cold war of governments inconvenient to the United States, the U.S. military's bloody "exploits" in Vietnam, the acts of sabotage in the Near East, and Latin America, and U.S. support for reactionary regimes wherever they continue to exist in the world--from South Africa to South Korea, Chile and Nicaragua; interference in the internal affairs of Greece, Italy and so on and so forth.

In compiling plans for ideological sabotage Washington's political scientists and their analyst colleagues in the CIA naturally try to imagine the long-term and immediate consequences of their efforts and to forestall the failure of their schemes. But failure is inevitable. And this is not because the ideological saboteurs lack zeal, but cause the causes they are supposed to uphold are profoundly unjust. So it was with the human rights question, which spawned a vociferous campaign in the Western mass media and at top government levels with the simultaneous intensification of Western intelligence subversive activity, coordinated by the CIA, against the socialist community countries. The whole world is well aware, however, that those people in the West who pass themselves off as "defenders of human rights" and who try on this pretext to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, are in fact indifferent to the rights and freedoms of the citizens of their own countries where these rights are cruelly suppressed. This is why the ideological saboteurs' hopes of implanting the image of "rights champions" in the minds of the peoples burst like soap bubbles.

The CIA's criminal activity on the ideological front, like its espionage and subversive activity against other countries, is giving rise to angry condemnation and protests throughout the world. For its purpose is to poison people's consciousness and undermine the process of detente and peace.

OPEC UNITY ATTAINED DESPITE THREATS FROM WASHINGTON

LD201650Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The decision taken by the OPEC conference in Abu Dhabi to gradually increase oil prices by 14.5 percent as of 1 January 1979 has clearly caused anger in Washington.

At a press conference, State Department spokesman Reston said that the United States expresses its regret at this decision and hopes that this decision will reconsidered at the next OPEC conference. Reston claimed that the oil price increase will definitely have an effect on U.S. efforts to fight inflation.

But this statement contradicts the facts. According to estimates by American economists, the next increase in the price of oil will increase inflation in the United States by no more than 0.5 percent, with the rate of inflation now estimated at 15 percent. Thus we must look for the reasons for Washington's displeasure at this decision. The increase in oil prices does not usually have an effect on inflation, but on the profits of the American oil monopolies which are being greatly harmed by the Abu Dhabi conference resolutions. Meanwhile measures are being taken in Washington to exercise pressure on OPEC members. A special joint group has been set up in the U.S. administration. Its official aim is to study the probable consequences of higher oil prices. But in the opinion of observers the question is chiefly one of setting out a program to pressure the oil-producing countries with a view to compelling them to abandon their decision or even to make OPEC apply this decision in part.

Of particular importance in these circumstances is the strengthening of the unity of the OPEC member-countries. It is no secret that the compromise decisions adopted in Abu Dhabi for higher oil prices was possible thanks to the overcoming of the differences inside this organization. The issue concerns the maintaining and strengthening of the unity attained in the face of the threats emanating from Washington.

U.S. MONOPOLIES USE OPEC PRICE HIKE FOR OWN BENEFIT

LD202130Y Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] New York, December 30, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksey Voronin reports:

American monopolies and official representatives of the authorities now express critical indignation over the decision, taken by the OPEC member-countries, to increase oil prices by a total of 14,5 per cent within the next year, but on the sly, both are not against using this decision to their own benefit. The monopolies discern in it a pretext for a further spiralling of prices of oil products, and the administration intends with the help of mass media to shift upon the OPEC member-countries the blame for economic disorders in the United States.

The New York electric Consolidated Edison company has already announced a 4-per cent rise in electric energy rates as of the beginning of next year, and by another 12 per cent before the end of 1979. The oil companies also plan increases in prices of gasoline and fuel oil. The oil monopolies intend to retain their fabulous profits through shifting upon the customer the consequences of a rise in prices.

Representatives of the authorities, in their turn, intimidate the rank-and-file Americans by saying that the OPEC's decision could lead to growth of inflation and unemployment, to reduction of the purchasing capacity of the population.

A number of press bodies of the United States lay bare these hypocritical assertions. The newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR writes that the OPEC's actions are well-justified and points out that real earnings from oil dropped because of inflation and depreciation of the dollar value rate, and some oil-producing countries are sustaining considerable losses. The newspaper stressed that the blame for the current economic difficulties of the United States cannot be shifted on the OPEC.

The DAILY WORLD stresses that the OPEC member-countries were compelled to increase prices of oil in order to protect themselves from inflation caused by the course of militarisation and monopolisation of the U.S. economy. Yet before the OPEC's decision the newspaper [words indistinct] American oil monopolies with the help of the government [words indistinct] through the Congress the energy programme, (?which) envisages a rise in prices. The "shock", which is spoken about by representatives of government and monopolies, is sheer hypocrisy. It is exactly the corporations and authorities which bear responsibility for the growth of prices in the country, and the oil giants [words indistinct] increase prices only to retain their high profits, the DAILY WORLD stresses.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE RELATIONS WITH FRG REVIEWED

LD201810Y Moscow TASS in English 1506 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 20, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Stroganov writes: This year, just as for several past years, the FRG confidently leads the field in the Soviet Union's foreign trade relations with the industrially developed capitalist states. This is borne out, specifically, by the figures on Soviet foreign trade for the past nine months, which have just been published here.

The volume of trade exchange between the USSR and the FRG amounted to almost 2,400 million roubles, a considerable increase as compared to the corresponding period of last year. In 1978 mutual trade is expected to top 3,000 million roubles.

An important stage in the expansion of mutually advantageous relations between the two countries was marked by the visit paid to the FRG this May by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The agreement signed during the visit on the development and deepening of long-term economic and industrial cooperation between the USSR and the FRG has the purpose of ensuring effective economic transactions for a period of 25 years.

This year, for instance, Soviet export to the FRG of different types of equipment, bearings, abrasives and other goods has grown. Apart from machinery, equipment and pipes, the Soviet Union purchases in the FRG ferrous rolled stock, chemicals, fabrics, ready-made garments and footwear.

Of primary importance for further cooperation between the two countries are joint large-scale projects, establishment of production cooperation. The Oskolskiy electrometallurgical plant and the Mogilev chemical fibres complex, for instance, are going up in cooperation with West German firms.

Growing cooperation between the USSR and the FRG is a substantial contribution to the implementation of the Final Act of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Both sides, as it was repeatedly noted, firmly intend to continue their efforts in this direction.

BRIEFS

AEROFLOT FREIGHT ROUTE--An Aeroflot IL-76T transport plane will leave Sheremetyevo Airport tomorrow for Luxembourg. Another international Aeroflot freight route linking the Soviet Union with the European countries will thus begin operating. The plane will make the trip of more than 2,000 kms in under 4 hours. [Excerpt] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD]

SPANISH-LANGUAGE ENCYCLOPEDIA--A Spanish-Soviet agreement on the publication of a 30-volume Soviet encyclopedia has been signed in Madrid. This will be the first publication in Spanish of the Soviet encyclopedia. The interest in Soviet literature has notably increased in Spain. During the last 2 years alone nearly 130 contracts for publishing in Spain books by Soviet authors have been signed between Soviet and Spanish publishing houses. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Dec 78 LD]

SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE TO COMMENT ON EVENTS IN IRAN

Sadiqi To Head New Cabinet

LD201759Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Valentin Gubernatorov]

[Text] A report from Tehran says that a spokesman for Gholam Hossein Sadiqi--who, as we have reported, has been given the task of forming a new Iranian Government--has reported that Sadiqi has consented to the shah's request that he head the new cabinet. As UPI notes, in the last 25 years Gholam Sadiqi has been arrested five times for his opposition to the shah's regime. The last time he was part of the Mossadeq government, which was overthrown in 1953 with the active participation of the CIA.

The appointment of Sadiqi to the post of prime minister is regarded in Iran as an attempt by the shah to find a way out of the political crisis by creating a government that could rely if not on the support, then at least on the neutrality of the opposition. Sadiqi has announced that his government will include people who have not been in any cabinet during the last 25 years. Observers consider that the new Iranian Government will be represented by former associates of Mossadeq.

Opposition Wants Monarchy Out

LD202314Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program with Anatoly Duronin]

[Text] An AP correspondent asserts that in Iran today everything has been calm. A breathing space has begun, he writes. But we already know that there is no such breathing space and that, to judge from the tense situation, none is expected. So why the need for this--to put it mildly--inaccuracy on the part of the U.S. correspondent? Let us take a look at the wording of this AP dispatch.

The shah is stepping up his efforts to find a political solution acceptable to the opposition in order to--and here I quote--put an end to violence. A person trusted by the shah has reported that he is close to such a political solution, but that for about another 10 days there will be no sensations.

By all appearances, such a solution is taken by the correspondent to be the shah's action in giving veteran politician Sadiqi the job of forming a civilian government. The plan, drawn up by the shah's entourage, provides for the country to be returned to the constitutional form of government that existed up to 1953, when, with direct participation by the CIA, the legitimate prime minister, Mosaddeq, was overthrown and the shah concentrated all power in his own hands. Prior to this the monarchy was restricted by the government and parliament. So in order to quiet the opposition the shah is prepared to surrender a part of his power to the government and give the country back its constitution. But for how long, one might ask, because the influence of the United States, particularly the CIA, in Iran is now much stronger than 25 years ago. Nobody can be sure that the new prime minister in short order will not be overtaken by the same fate as Mossaddeq. It is precisely for this reason that a majority of opposition figures in Iran consider the essential condition for normalizing political life to be the removal of the monarchy and the establishment of a republican system. But this, clearly, is not to the liking of Washington.

20 Dec Situation Report

LD201950Y Moscow TASS in English 1726 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

["The Struggle Goes On"--TASS headline]

[Text] London, December 20, TASS--According to a REUTER correspondent, a clash took place today in Tehran in the district of the central bazaar between demonstrating students and agents of the Iranian secret police, SAVAK. Several people were killed. The police made arrests. Troops cordoned off the area.

A tense situation prevails around Tehran University where several hundred teachers began a sit-in demanding its opening. The university is surrounded by armoured troop-carriers and tanks.

New York, December 20, TASS--A UPI correspondent reports that clashes between troops and the opponents of the present regime occur daily in the city of Tabriz. Yesterday's antigovernment demonstrations in that city, reports that FRANCE PRESS angecy, involved scores of thousands of people. Hundreds of doctors in white coats headed the demonstration.

The UPI reports that the authorities took disciplinary measures against the garrison of the city who "showed firmness when dispersing a demonstration" and sent to Tabriz a crack paratrooper unit to replace the garrison troops.

[Moscow in Persian to Iran at 1130 GMT on 20 December carries the following report on the Tabriz demonstrations: "It is reported from Tehran that antigovernment demonstrations took place in Tabriz again yesterday. The demonstrators demanded social reforms and the release of political prisoners. The authorities sent military units to disperse the demonstrators, but the soldiers only fired in the air. This fact confirms the validity of reports to the effect that discontent in expanding in the army. Last Monday, hundreds of soldiers in Tabriz refused to fire at the demonstrators and chanted antigovernment slogans themselves."]

Despite the intimidation of striking workers, the authorities have so far failed to restore oil extraction to the previous level. The workers are forceably taken to the oil fields in military trucks under army escorts. Nevertheless, according to the UPI, some 30,000 oil workers continue to strike. Oil extraction reaches only 50 per cent of normal. The strike continues at many state offices, banks and other organizations and industrial enterprises. Commenting on the events in Iran, American Professor Bill, just back from Tehran, writes in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR that opposition to the regime involves all sections of society, and that Iranian authorities will keep resorting to the most brutal measures for suppressing opposition demonstrations.

However, the forces of the opposition believe, the American professor adds, they will be able to topple the regime without resorting to armed struggle.

Touching on the U.S. position in regard to the Iranian events, the professor writes that unless the U.S. discontinues it former ill-advised policy, based on a lack of understanding of the political realities in Iran, it will reap bitter fruits.

Bonn, December 20, TASS--The United States and its allies in Europe keep supplying Iran with riot control equipment. According to the paper UNSERE ZEIT, five "water guns" intended for dispersing demonstrations have been sent to Iran from FRG territory in American military aircraft. The paper DIE WELT writes that a West German firm has sent recently to Iran 11,000 handcuffs and a big consignment of truncheons which cause electric shock on contact.

Article on Soviet 'Participation' Refuted

LD211105 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 51, 15 December 1978 publishes on pages 10 and 11 a 1,000-word article by D. Volskiy headed "Mr Moss Goes Bowling," on allegations by R. Moss of the London DAILY TELEGRAPH of "'secret Soviet participation' in Iranian affairs.'" Volskiy states that for decades the DAILY TELEGRAPH has been "regaling its readers with old wives' tales about 'Russian intrigues'" and quotes Moss' recent allegations that "radical transformations" in Iran will cause the smaller gulf states to "fall like ninepins." Volskiy suggests that if the West "really wants to guarantee its oil supplies from Iran" it should make it possible for that country's people to "resolve their own problems, without outside pressure." The article asserts that Moss' pen was guided by those who "want to convince public opinion in the West that, like it or not, it is necessary to 'go all the way' [idti do kontsa] in Iran."

ISRAELI DELEGATION TO USSR INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST PEACE

ID211101Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 51, 15 Dec 78 p 15 ID

[Report on Yu. Lebedev, Yu. Tyunkov interview: "Useful Exchange of Opinions"]

[Text] At the invitation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace, a group of representatives of the Israeli public was in the USSR in late November. They had numerous meetings with Soviet public figures in Moscow, Leningrad and Minsk. Representing various political views and party affiliations, the members of the group, among whom were several Knesset (parliament) deputies, having come to the USSR in an unofficial capacity, naturally expressed their opinions on several topical questions of the situation in the Near East and Israel. Speaking on behalf of all the members of the group at a meeting with journalists on the eve of their departure from the USSR, Tawfik Tubi, assistant secretary general of the Israeli Communist Party Central Committee and Knesset deputy, stated:

"We, Israeli public figures holding various political and ideological views, have had detailed, frank and sincere talks here on the problems of peace in the Near East. Agreement was revealed on many questions, and there were also differences. At the same time, we received the impression that the participants in the talks had the sincere desire to help extend and strengthen what unites us. We hope our trip to the USSR will contribute to improving mutual understanding between the Israeli and Soviet public and to the cause of a peaceful settlement in the Near East and throughout the world. We believe that it is only on the basis of respect for the legitimate national rights and security of all our region's states and peoples, including the Arab people of Palestine that we can move forward together toward an all-embracing, just and lasting peace in the Near East. This process requires the Soviet Union's active participation.

"I would like to say a few words more," T. Tubi said. "During meetings and talks with Soviet people we sensed their deep concern for the fate of peace throughout the world. An all-embracing, just and lasting peace between Israel and the Arab states is of vital significance both for Israel's peoples and for the peoples of Arab countries. However, today it is clearer than ever before that such a peace cannot be achieved by means of separate deals and agreements that ignore UN resolutions and without a just resolution of the Palestinian problem. As for the Camp David accords, they cannot even be called the first step toward a settlement. In my opinion, they constitute not only a refusal to resolve the Palestinian problem, but also create still greater obstacles in the path of resolving it. Thus, the proposed 'autonomy' for the Palestinians is in practice a continuation of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"For a real resolution of the problem it is necessary for Israel to withdraw from all Arab lands occupied in 1967 and for an independent Palestinian state to be created, which would exist alongside Israel. Experience shows that, to achieve a just and all-embracing peace settlement, the participation of the Palestinian Arab people, who are represented by the PLO, is necessary. The PLO must take part in all measures concerning the establishment of peace. Ignoring this legitimate right of the PLO only protracts the conflict. The Geneva peace conference, which the UN Security Council resolved to convene and whose cochairmen are the USSR and the United States, is the most suitable forum for the participation of all parties in efforts to establish peace. Any attempts to achieve separate agreements by passing the Geneva conference do not accord with the interests of a settlement. In such actions we can see the desire to obtain U.S. hegemony in the Near East, which contradicts the interests of independent development for all states in that region," Tubi stressed.

Knesset deputy J. Sarid, a member of the Israel Labor Party, noted in his speech, in particular: "Visits to various places, particularly Khatyn, again reminded us of the terrible times of World War II. But we also remember the war because at that time cooperation existed between the Soviet Union and the other countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, including the United States. The world needs this cooperation not only to win wars but also to avert them. We support the Geneva peace conference. We regard the Soviet Union as an active participant in the Near East settlement process."

J. Sarid's opinion was supported by A. Melamed, National Religious Party deputy in the Knesset. In particular, he said: "It is well known in our country that the Camp David agreements are a 'pax Americana' (peace American-style), which is not to our benefit. We desire a universal settlement and there are no disagreements among the delegation members on this issue.... The Geneva conference must be convened to resolve this problem and to establish peace, and the Soviet Union must participate in this."

Answering the questions of the NOVOYE VREMYA correspondents, the members of the group noted that the Israeli Government's present policy and the absence of peace in the Near East are having a severe impact on the economic position of Israel's working people. Thus D. Burshtein, member of the Israeli Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, declared that the government's policy is the reason for the grim economic situation in the country. A government of millionaires concerned primarily for millionaires to the detriment of the main mass of the working people is in power in Israel today, he continued. There has been talk here of the military budget. It is no secret that it is precisely the arms race that is one of the main causes of inflation and price rises. This results in the "enrichment of the rich" and weapons kings at the expense of the working people. Statistics attest that today Israel is in second place in the world inflation league. Since the Begin Government has been in office, the dollar has leapt from 9 to 19 Israeli pounds. As D. Burshtein noted, Israel's working people cannot tolerate this situation. The country's working class is struggling against the government's policy. Strikes are continually breaking out. Tens of thousands of people participate in them. There can be no doubt, he said, that if a just peace is established, the state budget will change sharply to benefit the working people.

Other members of the group, including A. Melamed and N. Feder, a Knesset deputy and member of the Mapam Party leadership, noted that more than 33 percent of Israel's budget is earmarked for "security" purposes and that the government policy is leading to an intensification of inflation and other economic ills. Certain of our interlocutors had an extremely original interpretation of the concept of "security," and differing viewpoints were also expressed regarding other political problems. Nevertheless, all the members of the group were unanimous that only the establishment of all-embracing, just and lasting peace in the Near East accords with the interests of all this region's peoples and states.

RHODESIA RECEIVING U.S. HELICOPTERS FROM ISRAEL

LD201452Y Moscow TASS in English 1200 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] London, December 20, TASS--Eleven American-made helicopters, which were recently received by the Smith clique in Rhodesia in violation of the U.N. embargo, were supplied to it by Israel, under a barter deal between Israel and Rhodesia, the newspaper GUARDIAN reports. Tel Aviv supplied the racists, in exchange for a large consignment of Rhodesian tobacco, with up-to-date American helicopters of the type of those which were used by the Pentagon during the aggression in Vietnam. The newspaper says that dismantled helicopters were shipped to Salisbury airport via Italy. An Israeli trade-mark was to be clearly seen on the crates.

This deal, the GUARDIAN says, is one of the examples of gross violation of the U.N. sanctions and testifies to close military ties between Israel and Rhodesia.

The Salisbury regime has considerably strengthened lately its aviation with the help of its Western benefactors by the addition of helicopters which are widely used for suppressing the national liberation movement of the Zimbabwe people and for making barbarous raids on neighbouring independent African countries--Zambia and Mozambique. Some time ago, the Smith clique also received about 20 reconnaissance planes which were built in Western Europe by American licences. One of the main channels for secret shipments of arms and military equipment to Rhodesia and South Africa are third countries, specifically Israel.

MOZAMBIQUE 'NOT ALONE' IN FACING RHODESIAN ATTACKS

LD201259Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Observer [Nablyudatel] article: "Racists' Dangerous Advantures"]

[Excerpts] The criminal clique in Salisbury has recently carried out new armed provocations against the People's Republic of Mozambique. Prior to this the racist Smith regime had repeatedly undertaken provocative actions against Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana, coordinating them with similarly bandit-like raids by South African subunits on Angolan territory.

This time it is a case not of an isolated raid on the territory of a sovereign African state, UN member and full and equal OAU member, which is what the People's Republic of Mozambique is, but of a whole series of aggressive acts. Raids are being carried out not in the border regions but deep into the hinterland.

Let us call a spade a spade: These are aggressive actions in a quite unconcealed form involving the killing of peaceful inhabitants. The Rhodesian military's raids on the territory of sovereign Mozambique totally expose Salisbury's so-called "multiracial transitional government," which includes local African puppets who, together with the Smith clique, bear the full measure of responsibility for the extermination of their compatriots.

The racists are gambling on delaying the proclamation of Zimbabwe's independence, thrusting back the national liberation movement and making Africa's independent states, including the "frontline" states, abandon support for the righteous cause of millions of still oppressed Africans.

Mozambique is not alone--the racists and their protectors in the West should remember this.

JAPANESE SOCIALIST PARTY DELEGATION CONTINUES MOSCOW VISIT

Meets With Suslov, Ponomarev

OW190109Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0037 GMT 19 Dec 78 OW

[Text] Moscow, 18 Dec (KYODO)--The Japan Socialist Party proposed to the Soviet Communist Party Monday the establishment of a demilitarized zone in Hokkaido and the Soviet-held Kurils. The proposal was made at the first round of political talks between a visiting mission of JSP led by chairman Ichio Asukata and leaders of the Soviet Communist Party, including Politburo member Mikhail Suslov and Boris Ponomarev, head of the International Bureau. Asukata expressed his party's views on the international situation, Japan-Soviet relations, including the territorial issue, fishery, economic cooperation and other problems, such as relations between the JSP and the Soviet party.

From the standpoint of promoting peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula, Asukata proposed the creation of a denuclearized zone in the peninsula. He also proposed a new concept calling for setting up of a demilitarized zone in Hokkaido and the Kuril Islands. The Soviet side, however, did not make known its views on the proposals made by Asukata Monday.

At the outset of Monday's meeting, Suslov expressed welcome to the JSP mission and expressed the hope that relations will be deepened between his party and the Japanese party. Asukata, on his part, expressed the hope that frank views will be exchanged between the two parties. He then explained his party's stand on various matters.

The JSP chairman said his party is taking the stand of basically welcoming the normalization of U.S.-China relations. In order to have the normalization of U.S.-China ties aid in bringing peace to Asia, Asukata stressed that there was need to make a switchover in the diplomacy of the Japanese Government which is based on the Japan-U.S. security treaty.

On the northern territorial issue, he explained his party's basic policy of seeking the return of the Kurils and expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will put forth conditions on which advance can be made on the matters. On the Soviet-proposed Japan-Soviet good-neighborhood and cooperation treaty, Asukata said that his party will not be able to agree to it in its present form. Asukata also transmitted to the Soviet party leaders the request of Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira that top leaders of the Soviet Union, including Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the party, and Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko visit Japan.

On the other matters, he expressed the hope that Japanese fishermen will be allowed to resume gathering sea tangle in waters around Kaigara Island, off eastern Hokkaido. He also hoped that Japan-Soviet joint fishery undertakings be promoted, a Japan-Soviet economic ministerial conference be held to discuss economic cooperation and a long-term economic cooperation agreement be concluded. The second round of political talks is scheduled to be held Tuesday afternoon (Tuesday night Japan time).

Talks Postponed

OW191229Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 19 Dec 78 OW

[Excerpts] Moscow, 19 Dec (KYODO)--The Soviet Communist Party Tuesday asked a visiting delegation of the Japan Socialist Party to postpone by one day the second round of talks between the two parties. The talks were originally scheduled to begin 1:30 pm Tuesday (7:30 pm Japan time). The Soviet side hoped to hold the rescheduled talks at 11 am Wednesday (5 pm Japan time).

Reasons for the postponement were not known immediately. It is, however, believed, that the Soviet Communist Party needs more time than expected to produce official party replies to views and proposals forwarded by the Japanese Socialists at the first round of talks between the two parties Monday. The Japanese Socialists' proposals included the establishment of a demilitarized zone in Hokkaido and the Soviet-held Kuril Islands.

Because the second round of the talks was put off to Wednesday, the JSP delegation was rescheduled to meet Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade Nikolay Patolichev Tuesday afternoon for discussion on economic cooperation between the two countries.

Talks Resume

OW201231Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1216 GMT 20 Dec 78 OW

[Text] Moscow, 20 Dec (KYODO)--The second round of political talks began in Moscow Wednesday between a Japan Socialist Party delegation headed by party chairman Ichio Asukata and representatives of the Soviet Communist Party.

Among the representatives of the Soviet Communist Party were Mikhail A. Suslov, member of the Political Bureau, and Boris N. Ponomarev, director of the International Bureau.

At the first meeting Monday, JSP Chairman Asukata proposed establishment of a nuclear-free zone over the Korean Peninsula, demilitarization of Hokkaido and the Kuril Islands, and a solution to the territorial dispute between Japan and the Soviet Union. The Soviet side is said to be showing a stern attitude toward Japan-Soviet problems as a whole because of its concern at the situation created by Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty and normalization of U.S.-China relations.

The only remaining problem for the JSP delegation, which is scheduled to leave Moscow Thursday, is whether it can meet Prime Minister Aleksey Kosygin or Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, after the second round of talks.

A joint communique is not likely to be issued as the JSP does not want one.

Meets With Suslov

OW210041Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0018 GMT 21 Dec 78 OW

[Text] Moscow, 20 Dec (KYODO)--Mikhail Suslov, a member of the Soviet Communist Party's Politburo, expressed strong apprehension over the coming normalization of relations between China and the United States in his second round of political talks here Wednesday with chairman Ichio Asukata of the Japan Socialist Party and other members of the JSP mission. Referring to the agreement reached between China and the U.S. to establish diplomatic relations, Suslov said this is only natural if the situation is normal. But he wondered whether the present situation is normal.

He expressed the view that the U.S. decided to normalize relations with China, a step which it had put off for more than 10 years, because of a change in China. He also believed China made a hurry to normalize relations with the U.S. because it is attempting to conclude a U.S.-China alliance to compete against the Soviet Union. He claimed that China is attempting to entice militarists in Japan into challenging the Soviet Union on the territorial problem.

On other matters concerned with international activities of the Soviet Union, Suslov said that the Soviet Union was making efforts for disarmament and for abolition of nuclear weapons. He evaluated the fact that reformist and democratic forces had gained victory in Angola and Afghanistan and that antigovernment movements were growing in Iran. He revealed that his country will continue to support such forces.

On Japan-Soviet relations, Suslov said that there has been many unfriendly reports of the Japanese Government since the autumn of 1976. As to the pending northern territorial issue, he said the matter has been settled through various international treaties and documents after the war and added it will not be for the sake of peace to violate such treaties and documents.

On the Soviet proposed Japan-Soviet good-neighborhood and cooperation treaty, Suslov hoped that the Japan Socialist Party will extend positive support. He revealed the Soviet Union's posture of continuing efforts for Japan-Soviet economic cooperation in the future.

Suslov, however, did not make any comment on the proposal made by Asukata Monday on the denuclearizing of the Korea Peninsula and establishment of a demilitarized zone in Hokkaido and the Kuril Islands. He told the JSP mission that the series of talks held in Moscow have proved that friendly relations between the Japanese and Soviet parties exist. He added that the two parties were not able to agree on a number of matters but that they possessed common views basically on many issues.

The second round of political talks originally were scheduled for Tuesday but it was postponed to Wednesday at the request of the Soviet side.

Meets With Ishkov

OW210102Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0032 GMT 21 Dec 78 OW

[Text] Moscow, 20 Dec (KYODO)--The Japan Socialist Party mission currently visiting Moscow held its second meeting with Soviet Fisheries Minister Aleksander Ishkov Wednesday and revealed the party planned to set up a new fisheries organization to help petty fishermen and small fishing firms in Japan. The mission led by chairman Ichio Asukata hoped that the Soviet Union will extend cooperation on the matter.

It also hoped that the Soviet Union will settle the problem of gathering of sea tangle in waters around Kaigara Island, off eastern Hokkaido, and the conducting of joint Japan-Soviet fishery undertakings through the new organization to be formed by JSP.

Although Ishkov agreed basically to the JSP request, he said that the permission of the Japanese Government is necessary on the Japanese side on the matter of gathering of sea tangles. He also told the Japanese mission that it should take note of the fact that former Agriculture, Foresty and Fisheries Minister Ichiro Nakagawa had revealed that the Japan Fisheries Association will be Japan's outlet in dealing with the sea tangle problem when Nakagawa requested that the Soviet Union permit Japanese fishermen to resume gathering of the edible seaweed.

Asukata expressed gratitude for the reply made by Ishkov on the matter and said he will hold talks with the Japanese Government on his return to Tokyo.

ARKHIPOV ADDRESSES MINE COMMISSIONING IN MONGOLIA

For the MONTSAME "text" of a 14 December speech by I.V. Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, at the commissioning of a copper and molybdenum mining and concentrating combine in Erdenet, Mongolia, see page F 3 of the 20 December Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

PONOMAREV MEETS WITH BOLIVIAN CP LEADER

LD201519Y Moscow World Service in English 0400 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Here in Moscow on Tuesday the candidate member of the Soviet Communist Party Politburo and secretary of the party's Central Committee, Boris Ponomarev, met with a delegation of the Bolivian Communist Party. It is led by the party's first secretary [name indistinct]. The meeting reaffirmed solidarity of the Soviet Communist Party with the communists and patriots of Bolivia in their struggle for democracy and social progress. The Bolivian delegation stressed the growing might and prestige of the Soviet Union as the main factor of preventing war and containing the reactionaries. They condemned China for its policy of siding with the imperialists and Chinese acts of aggression against Vietnam.

SUPPORT FOR PADILLA GOVERNMENT IN BOLIVIA NOTED

LD141227Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Dec 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[IZVESTIYA press service report: "Weaving a Plot"]

[Text] The Bolivian minister of the interior, speaking in La Paz to representatives of leading political parties, reported the discovery of a plot against the new government. Let us recall that on 24 November a military coup took place in the country and the coup leaders stated their intention to carry out democratic reforms and scheduled general presidential elections for 1 July next year. Big businessmen and some high-ranking officers are involved in the antigovernment coup.

It is believed that overthrown Bolivian President Gen J. Pereda Asbun was linked with the plotters. Having escaped house arrest, he arrived with a group of former ministers on two aircraft in the city of Santa Cruz, where he was ceremonially welcomed at the military academy and air force base.

Meanwhile increasingly broad strata of the Bolivian population are coming out in support of the new government headed by President D. Padilla.

KUZNETSOV PRESENTS AWARD TO GUYANA'S JAGAN

LD201934Y Moscow TASS in English 1854 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Moscow, December 20, TASS--The Order of Friendship of the Peoples was presented today in the Kremlin to the general secretary of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana and outstanding peace champion and champion of the national independence of the peoples, Cheddi Jagan.

Alternate Politbureau member of the CPSU CC, First Vice-President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vasiliy Kuznetsov, who presented the award, noted that Cheddi Jagan is honored for his great contribution to the establishment and promotion of friendly relations between the peoples of Guyana and the Soviet Union and on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

'PERSECUTION' CLAIM BY LITHUANIAN PENTECOSTALIST REFUTED

LD210915 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 13 December 1978 publishes on page 5 a 1,500-word article by G. Kazlauskayte under the heading "Hypocrites Without a Mask," about churchgoing in Lithuania. The writer urges those who have applied for permission to emigrate not to "betray" the country "for which their fathers gave their lives" and describes the "superstitious" motives that prompt war-widows to attend church.

The writer goes on to describe the case of a Pentecostalist preacher, Viktor Konstantinovich Vasilyev, who "disseminates slander against our reality, against the Soviet way of life," claiming that he is being persecuted by the authorities for his religious convictions and that he has been evicted from his apartment. Vasiliyev's case, she notes, has been publicized by the Voice of America and Vatican Radio. Having described Vasilyev's allegedly shiftless existence before joining the priesthood, Kazlauskayte concludes: "Suddenly he became an eminent man among the sect members. 'I am a preacher of Christ,' he states. Having renounced conscientious labor, dashing from one enterprise to another and roaming the country, he demands attention, discretion and a good apartment. When he is not given these--that means he is being persecuted for his beliefs.

"'We want to leave once and for all our land where we are subjected to victimization, persecution and all sorts of illegal restrictions for professing our faith,' Vasilyev writes. "But what sort of persecution can this be? Surely this is not borne out by the fact that on Krivules Street in Vilnyus a prayer house was recently erected and permission obtained for an extension? Surely the fact that sect members father in this house three times weekly without restrictions and hear the slanderous speeches of the preacher Vasilyev does not attest to persecution?

"A foreign guest recently visited Krivules Street. The grizzled man expressed his surprise that his brothers and sisters in Christ had a good house of prayer and that they were allowed to expand it. By their clothing he judged that they were more concerned for everyday comforts than for their souls.

"The believers listened to the words of the guest and were surprised: Why were Vasilyev, Bulakh and the sect's other ringleaders writing everywhere about the persecution of believers? Who benefited from this lie? Surely not those who live and work honestly and treasure their good name. It is aimed at credulous, naive people, at people living across the Atlantic. This is borne out by the link between the sect preacher Vasilyev and U.S. journalist H. Piper. Incidentally, Piper recently gained worldwide notoriety: He was put on trial for slandering the Soviet Union. But this story taught Vasilyev nothing. He continues to shout that 'the USSR is using genocide against believers.' What shamelessness!

"I have thought for a long time about the aim of the preacher Vasilyev's activity and concluded that he wants a high price from believers for their faith in God: silence and unquestioning obedience to the sect leaders, repudiation of the sacrifice made by their fathers and grandfathers, and betrayal of the motherland."

RUBEN PRESS CONFERENCE ON NEW REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTIONS

LD202112Y Moscow TASS in English 1849 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 20, TASS--"The constitutions of the union and autonomous republics open a vista for the further development and deepening of socialist democracy.

These documents are a mighty instrument of building communism--the supreme aim of Soviet society", it was stated by Vitaliy Ruben, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, one of the two chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. He spoke at a press conference here today devoted to the entry into force of the new constitutions.

The constitutions of the union and autonomous republics, that were adopted after the Constitution of the USSR, embodied the results of the social, economic and political development of Soviet society. Numerous valuable remarks and proposals directed at perfecting republican legislation, at further progress in the economic, social, cultural and other spheres, were expressed in the course of the countrywide discussion of the drafts of these documents.

The new constitutions of the Soviet republics are an effective factor of the further drawing together and the flourishing of the socialist nations, of the growth of the material and spiritual might of each of them and of the entire international army of the builders of communism as a whole, it was stressed by Vitaliy Ruben. They rest on a firm ideological foundation, on the principles of the state sovereignty of each republic, incorporate the wealth of experience of constitutional development and the development of socialist democracy, they patently demonstrate to the world the peaceloving nature of the Soviet Union, the firmness of the friendship of all of its peoples.

Serving as the political and legal basis of the constitutions of the union and autonomous republics are the provisions of the new fundamental law of the USSR (1977) that expresses the united will of the entire Soviet people, ideas of socialist internationalism. Just as in that document, it is said in the constitutions of the republics that the CPSU is the nucleus of the entire political system of Soviet society. Armed with the Marxist-Leninist teaching, the party determines the general perspective of society's development, the line of the USSR's domestic and foreign policy.

The main directions of the further development of socialist democracy are defined in the constitutions of all the 15 union republics: the ever broader participation of citizens in administering the affairs of the state and society, perfection of the state apparatus, raising the activity of public organisations, intensification of people's control, strengthening of the legal basis of state and public life, greater publicity and constant account of public opinion.

These are not just provisions in the consitutions but actual present-day practice, it was stressed by Vitaliy Ruben.

Irrespective of nationality, Soviet people are united by their common ideology, by the common conditions of socio-economic life, by community of intellectual interest and aims. But the socio-political unity of the Soviet peoples does not mean the disappearance of national distinctions. For a long time to come all the nations and nationalities living in the Soviet Union will retain their specificities, the features of their national character, their language and their best traditions, Vitaliy Ruben declared.

UKRAINIAN SUPREME SOVIET SESSION ENDS IN KIEV 19 DEC

AU191550Y Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 19 Dec 78 AU

[Excerpt] The session passed the Ukrainian SSR law on the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and a Supreme Soviet decision on the procedure of putting the law into effect.

Deputy Sokolov, Ukrainian CP Central Committee Politburo member and second secretary and Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium member, delivered a report on the fourth item on the agenda: The Ukrainian SSR draft bill on the elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. The following deputies took part in the debate on the report: Skiba, Ivano-Frankovskiy Obkom first secretary; Kirilenko, Sevastopolskiy Gorispolkom chairman; Lieutenant General Fomichev, Military Council member and Political Administration chief in Odessa Military District; and Zbanatskiy, Board secretary of the Ukrainian Writers Union. The debate ended. The session unanimously passed the Ukrainian SSR law on the elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. The deputies then listened to a report by Deputy Kolotukha, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium secretary, on approving the decress issued by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium. The session passed the laws and decisions on this issue.

With this the ninth session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet completed its proceedings.

SHEVARDNADZE ATTENDS GEORGIAN SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

LD202102Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tbilisi--A session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet has opened. The deputies are discussing the draft plan and budget of the republic for next year. They are defining specific ways for fulfilling the tasks and are revealing reserves for further increasing the efficiency of output and quality of work in all areas of the national economy. Taking part in the work of the session is Shevardadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee.

KARACHAYEVO-CHERKESSKIY OBKOM ELECTS NEW FIRST SECRETARY

LD201533Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Dec 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Pankratov report: "Obkom Plenum"]

[Text] Cher:essk, 16 December--A Karachayevo-Cherkesskiy Obkom plenum has been held here to consider an organizational question. In connection with V. S. Murakhovskiy's election as first secretary of Stavropolskiy Kraykom, he has been released from the duties of obkom first secretary.

A. A. Inzhiyevskiy, who was previously first secretary of Stavropol Gorkom, has been elected first secretary of Karacheyevo-Cherkesskiy Obkom.

BRIEFS

NEW CHERNOVTSY OFFICIAL--A routine session of the Chernovitskaya Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies on 1 December discussed the ways to further improve health services and social insurance in the oblast. The session also examined an organizational issue. Yablonskiy, hitherto Chernovitskiy Raykom first secretary, was elected oblispolkom first deputy chairman. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 1 Dec 78 AU]

ABSTINENCE PROPAGANDA CONFERENCE--A republic-level seminar-conference on questions concerning abstinence propaganda was held in Kiev recently. Its participants exchanged experiences in combating drunkenness, as well as new methods of work, such as a sobriety school in Kiev successfully operating at the Ukrainian cable plant. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 15 Dec 78 AU]

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 19 DEC

LD200733 [Editorial report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 19 December reports that Severo-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast agricultural workers are the first in the republic to complete preparation of seeds for spring sowing. Most of the seeds are strong and hard strains of wheat, the radio says, adding that the area sown to new and highly-productive strains of local selection will increase by almost 500,000 hectares. These include the wheat strains (Shalkardinskaya-25) and Tselinnaya-20, which are both well adapted to the dry conditions of the virgin lands.

The radio also reports that over 80 percent of the seed pool in Omskaya Oblast have now been brought up to high sowing quality. Most farms have been supplied with first-class seeds, preference being given to new, more productive strains of local selection. The radio adds regarding winter sowing in Kuban, that winter shoots cover 2 million hectares here, but the weather is threatening with wind, rain and frosts imminent. A review of the state of winter crops was recently carried out on an area of 1,997,000 hectares and showed that the seedlings were in good condition. Shoots have appeared on 1.4 million hectares. Strong and valuable wheat strains have been sown on 650,000 hectares. One of the main tasks now is autumn-winter fertilizer-application to ensure a good yield.

At 1445 GMT the radio adds that three major Altay rayons--Shipunovskiy, Zavyalovskiy and Blagoveshchenskiy--today completed preparations of seeds for the spring. Ninety-three percent of the kray's seeds are up to standard quality, and almost four-fifths are in the first and second class. Considerably more strong and firm wheat seeds and promising varieties of oats, barley and groat crops have been stocked than last year, and the area sown to them this spring is due to be increased.

The radio adds that ploughing-in of snow has begun in Pavlodarskaya Oblast, Kazakhstan, following heavy snowfalls. The snow has been retained on the first 150,000 hectares and is due to be retained on a total of over 3 million hectares in the Oblast.

SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT IN 1979 DISCUSSED

LD202233Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Summary] The all-union operational headquarters for material and technical supplies to agriculture has discussed the supply situation in preparation for field work in 1979. It was noted that most industries are successfully fulfilling their obligations. New tractors, combines and other machinery is being dispatched ahead of schedule. However, there are delays in supplies of sowing machines, rippers [rykhliter] and cultivators. There is a shortage of spare parts. Among the main culprits are the Michurinsk association motordetal, the Yaroslavl avtodizel association, the Altay selmash works and the Kharkov tractorengine works. The Makeyevka and Kommunarsk metal works are lagging behing in supplies to enterprises of the ministry of tractor and agricultural machine-building.

A number of chemical enterprises have a great shortfall. Since the start of the year they have failed to deliver some 1.5 million tons of mineral fertilizers, mainly phosphorous. Also to blame for this are railway workers, having failed to smoothly organize delivery of raw materials to chemical enterprises.

Furthermore, due to a shortage of railway gondola cars much new agricultural machinery has built up at the Gomelselmash works and elsewhere. At sovkhozes and kolkhozes there is an acute shortage of tires for tractors and trailers, although there are great quantities of them on the premises of the Bobruysk tire works. Railway workers are to blame for this situation. For his part, a Ministry of Communications representative at the session criticized the enterprise management which drags out the loading and unloading, with the Sibselmash works named as the main culprit.

The all-union operational headquarters adopted measures for speeding up deliveries of spring supplies to sovkhozes and kolkhozes.

GORBACHEV ATTENDS UNION COUNCIL OF KOLKHOZES MEETING

ID211036Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] At the meeting of the union Council of Kolkhozes the results of the work of the kolkhozes during the past year were summed up. It was noted that the kolkhozes made an important contribution to the reaping of a record grain crops harvest for the country.

The average yield of the kolkhozes reached 20.6 quintals per hectare.

Quite a good harvest was grown by the kolkhozes of the cotton-sowing republics: Over 8.5 million tons of cotton had been sold.

On the whole, livestock breeding, also, developed successfully.

The volume of agricultural output will amount to R120 billion this year, and the major share comes from the kolkhozes. The successes of the kolkhozes are obvious.

But at the meeting the main attention was devoted to the analysis of shortcomings and to the search for reserves. The question of subsidiary [podsobnyy] enterprises and crafts [promysel], which is important to the kolkhoz movement, was also examined. At present they are supplying the country with output worth almost R2.5 billion: canned food, construction materials, consumer goods and artistic items. This makes it possible to strengthen the economy of the kolkhozes and to resolve many social problems.

Taking part in the council's work was Gorbachev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

BRIEFS

NEW WHEAT VARIETY--The Ivanovka experimental station in Akhtyrskiy Rayon, Sumskaya Oblast, has developed a new wheat variety, the Ivanovskaya-12, and completed the development of a progressive sowing technology making it possible to gather 50 quintals of grain per hectare. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 15 Dec 78 AU]

SOVIET PROBE REACHES VENUS; DESCENT MODULE LANDS

LD210944Y Moscow World Service in English 0930 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Soviet automatic station has reached Venus and transmitted to earth the results of space research.

A descent module landed on the side of the planet invisible from earth and illuminated by the sun.

The temperature during the landing operation was plus 500 degrees centigrade and the pressure several times higher than that on earth.

Details of Descent

LD211058Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The descent module of the Venera-12 is on the surface of Venus. Here is a TASS report:

Soviet space science and technology have taken a new step in the study of Venus. On 21 December 1978 the interplanetary station Venera-12, after a 98-day flight covering a distance of over 240 million km, reached the planet's environs. The station's descent module made a soft landing at 0630 and transmitted scientific information from the planet's surface for 110 minutes. The Venera-12 automatic station has continued past Venus for 35,000 km and is continuing its flight in space.

As has been reported, the Venera-12 automatic station was launched on 14 September 1978. During its interplanetary flight, scientific research into physical processes taking place in space was carried out by means of instruments on board the automatic station. In particular, the Soviet-French program of studying gamma flares [gamma-vspleski] of solar and galactic origin was continued. The scientific information and data on the functioning of the systems and equipment on board the station were transmitted regularly to earth. In accordance with the flight program, corrections to the station's trajectory were made on 21 September and 14 December. On 19 December, 2 days before entering the atmosphere of Venus, the descent module separated from the station, and the station itself was put on a fly-by trajectory passing close to the planet.

The descent module entered Venus' atmosphere at a speed of 11.2 kilometers per second. After aerodynamic deceleration in the atmosphere and a parachute descent to a height of 40 km, the module continued its descent with the aid of its braking device. During the module's descent, experiments to carry out a precise chemical analysis of the composition of the atmosphere and clouds, a spectral analysis of the solar radiation scattered in the atmosphere, and a study of electric charges in the planet's atmosphere were carried out from height of 62 km from the planet's surface by means of scientific instruments on board the module. After the descent module landed on the surface of Venus, the scientific measurements were continued.

On board the Venera-12 station is a pennant with a portrait of Vladimir Ilich Lenin on bas-relief, and the descent module carries the USSR state emblem.

The automatic station Venera-11, launched 5 days before Venera-12, is continuing its flight and will reach the planet's environs on 25 December.

The long-range space communications center continues to control the interplanetary stations Venera-11 and Venera-12. The results of this new space experiment are being processed and analyzed in USSR Academy of Sciences institutes.

USSR LAUNCHES COSMOS-1064 SATELLITE INTO OUTER SPACE

LD211142Y Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 21, TASS--Another artificial earth satellite, the Cosmos-1064, was launched in the Soviet Union on December 20, 1978.

The Sputnik carries scientific apparatuses designed for continuation of the exploration of outer space.

The initial period of revolution of the Sputnik is 89.7 minutes, maximum distance from the earth surface 991 kilometers, minimum distance 435 kilometers and orbital angle 83 degrees.

The apparatuses installed on board the Sputnik function smoothly.

SOVIET SCIENTIST DISCUSSES ROLE OF LASERS IN FUSION

LD152110Y Moscow TASS in English 1926 GMT 15 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, December 15, TASS--The heating and compression of matter by laser in thermonuclear reactions were recently recognized as the most effective method of achieving controlled thermonuclear fusion. This problem became the subject of the discussion at the 12th European conference on the interaction of laser radiation with matter and the laser thermonuclear fusion. The conference was attended by scientists from 17 countries.

One of the important aspects of the problem, Academician Nikolay Basov, director of the Physics Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, told TASS, is the heating of fuel by laser. This problem is being studied by Soviet and foreign scientists.

During the year since the 11th conference, major advances have been made in the field. Promising results, continued the academician, were achieved in the Soviet Union. Scientists at the Physics Institute have developed a unique installation, "Delfin", which concentrates 216 laser beams into eight powerful pencils. The scientists hope that the total power of laser impulses in the installation will be enough to start the fusion.